

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 15-16, 2006

Reference No.: 2.8b.(1)
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry Abbott
Division Chief
Local Assistance

Ref: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT CONTRACT AWARD PER
RESOLUTION G-03-19, STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GUIDELINES
WAIVER-06-07**

ISSUE:

On March 15, 2005, the California Transportation Commission (Commission) allocated \$799,000 to the City of South Pasadena (City) for the Mission Street Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project (Mission Street Project). The project has encountered several delays that were beyond the City's controls, and the City is requesting a time extension of three months for contract award, until June 30, 2006.

This project required the City to obtain approvals from multiple agencies as the Metropolitan Transportation Agency's (MTA) Metro Gold Line rail crossing bisects Mission Street. This project provides additional safety measures for both motorists and pedestrians at the convergence of the Metro Gold Line rail crossing.

The MTA and Metro Gold Line Authority initially reviewed and approved the final design plans and notified the City that since the Mission Street Project will involve construction at or near the Mission Meridian intersection (where the Metro Gold Line bisects Mission Street), Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approval was required. The PUC staff initially reviewed the Mission Meridian intersection and indicated that, due to minimal engineering and construction work performed at the intersection, the final design plans could be administratively approved. When the final design plans were submitted for PUC administrative approval, PUC staff requested further time to review of the plans. In addition, staff was now unclear if these plans required approval or concurrence by the PUC Administrative Law Judge.

The coordination and final approval of the plans by agencies took longer than anticipated. Extensive meetings were held to ensure the City's plan conformed to MTA, Metro Gold Line, and PUC requirements. The City recently completed the coordination and approval of the Gold Line crossing safety improvement project with MTA, Metro Gold Line and the PUC. This multi-agency approval process was unexpectedly long and is the primary reason for the City's request for this three-month time extension.

The City is currently seeking contract bids through public notices and other public information media. The project was advertised on February 1, 2006 in the South Pasadena Review and again on February 2, 2006 in the Dodge Report/Green Sheet. The bid opening is scheduled for February 23, 2006. Staff fully expects contract award approval by the City Council on March 15, 2006.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation recommends approval of the three month extension request.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution G-03-19, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Guidelines, adopted by the Commission on December 11, 2003, stipulates that funds allocated for the construction phase of local grant projects are available for contract award for a period of 12 months from the date of allocation. The Guidelines further stipulate that the Commission may approve a waiver to the contract award deadline one time only for up to 20 months in accordance with Section 14529.8 of the Government Code.